First COVID-19 Case Reported in Thomas County

In an initial report as part of the COVID-19 response, corn, soybean, and livestock producers in the Commodity Credit Corporation and additional assistance payments to farmers and ranchers from the USDA’s Department of Agricultural Assistance (USDA/SA), I've written letters to USDA to demonstrate the needs of both farmers and ranchers often taken for granted. However, in times like these we are reminded of how crucial food production is to the well-being of our country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit our food culture hard, particularly livestock producers attempting to avoid price declines for the animals they raise. Beyond price for processed beef, there are also concerns of processing plants and their ability to continue operating. The researchers pointed out the need for continued research in this area with emphasis on the importance of preserving the food system.

The CARES Act, passed March 27, provided a way for the USDA to work with farmers and ranchers to support continued production and processing of livestock, which remains a top priority.